introducing 10kg cylinders in its place, for convenience of the public;

(b) whether Indian Oil Corporation have also made arrangements for customers to change dealers and if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether all LPG fittings are being standardised and if so, whether any time bound programme has been chalked out for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) :

(a) IOC has no proposal to introduce 9kg LPG cylinders.

(b) The oil marketing companies including IOC have introduced an experimental scheme in the metropolitan cities enabling LPG consumers to switch over from one distributor to another distributor of their choice (including inter-company transfer). In addition IOC has permitted its customers in selected markets to switch over from one IOC distributor to another.

(c) While LPG cylinder fittings like the pressure regulator and the valve are being standardised for eventually achieving interchangeability among the oil marketing companies, no time bound programme has been drawn up.

New gas reserves in Rajasthan

2543. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new gas reserves have been located in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details and the estimated quantity of gas located there; and

(c) by when it is likely to commence commercial exploitation of these resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gas was found at Ghotaru prospect in Rajasthan in 1983.

(b) The recoverable reserves of natural gas in Rajasthan are estimated at about 540 million cubic metres.

(c) The prospect at Ghotru is at the exploratory/delineation stage. Production will commence only after the assessment of the potential of the field and availability of suitable consumers.

Dealership granted under social objective scheme

2544. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the object of the Social Objective Scheme of the Government for the selection of petroleum product dealers;

(b) how many dealerships for petroleum product have been granted under the 'Social Objective Scheme' in Patna region of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited since the introduction of the scheme; and

(c) whether any one of those dealerships which were granted under the 'Social Objective Scheme' in Patna region of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in 1986 has been terminated; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The object of 'Social Objective Scheme' is primarily to give business opportunities to the weaker sections of society viz. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities, Freedom Fighters, Unemployed Graduates, Physically Handicapped persons and Ex-defence Personnel etc.